

STATEMENT OF WORK
Toxic Substances Economic Analysis Support

Background and Purpose

The Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT) of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) implements the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), the Pollution Prevention Act (PPA), and other laws. Within OPPT, the Economics, Exposure and Technology Division (EETD) supports OPPT programs in the areas of economics, chemistry, engineering, and exposure assessment. EETD manages the Risk Screening Environmental Indicators Model which provides public and private organizations with information on the relative risk impacts of chemical releases and transfers from industrial facilities, and EETD leads the Design for Environment Program pollution prevention activities.

EETD analysis promotes better informed, more cost-effective Agency decisions by providing information on economic, health, and ecological consequences of policy options early in the policy development process. This information helps the Agency find ways to build flexibility into regulations up front, and to pursue promising non-regulatory approaches, such as outreach to promote industry voluntary pollution prevention and to provide the public with better information on chemical risks.

The website <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/> provides more information on OPPT and EETD programs.

The contractor shall perform the tasks listed below.

Task 1. Economic and Policy Analysis

EETD's Economic and Policy Analysis Branch provides analysis to help ensure that economic and social issues are fully considered in Agency decision processes. It provides economic support for rulemakings affecting lead (Pb) and other chemicals on the TSCA Inventory, new chemical premanufacturing reviews, Agency decisionmaking on categories of chemicals such as endocrine disruptors and persistent bioaccumulators, and other regulatory and non-regulatory activities.

The contractor shall prepare economic and policy analyses to support Agency decision making under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Section 6; the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 which created Title IV; other TSCA sections; and other laws affecting environmental protection. *Any final regulatory or policy decisions will be made only by EPA.*

1.1 TSCA Section 4. Testing

Under Section 4, EPA issues rules requiring chemical testing and promotes voluntary approaches to collecting hazard and other information. For example, for high production volume chemicals, the Chemical Right to Know initiative involves both voluntary testing and potential rulemaking. The contractor shall provide economic and policy analysis support for Agency decision making under TSCA Section 4, including the following activities:

A. Estimate costs and burden hours of test protocols identified by the Agency (for example, tests

for carcinogenicity or effects on development and reproduction). Itemize expenditures such as labor, supplies and materials, General & Administrative costs, and contractor's fee. The work requires detailed knowledge of laboratory protocols and costs.

B. Assess economic impacts of mandatory or voluntary chemical testing, on the chemical industry and on society. Describe production volumes, prices, and chemical uses; testing costs and financial impacts on industry; small business impacts; testing laboratory capacity; and other information needed to assess economic impacts of testing programs. The work often requires use of TSCA Confidential Business Information. *See subtask 1.3 below for other examples of possible topics.*

1.2 TSCA Section 5. New Chemicals

TSCA Section 5 requires firms to submit premanufacture notices (PMNs) to EPA before producing or importing a new chemical substance, and to notify EPA before manufacturing or processing a chemical for significant new uses. The contractor shall provide economic analysis support for Agency decisions under Section 5. Activities include updating and summarizing an existing database with PMN information, and preparing economic reports to support Agency PMN reviews or Significant New Use Rules. Work requires TSCA Confidential Business Information clearance and access to the TSCA CBI Center in Washington DC.

1.3 TSCA Section 6. Existing Chemicals

Under Section 6, EPA may regulate chemicals that present unreasonable risks through bans or restrictions on production, use and/or disposal; labeling or other information requirements recordkeeping, or testing, or other means. The contractor shall provide economic and policy analysis support for Agency decision making under Section 6, and related analysis required under other laws and Executive Orders.

A. Prepare economic analyses of social costs and social benefits of actions, covering market profiles, social and private costs of regulatory and non-regulatory options, social and private benefits of options, net benefits of options, small business/small entity assessment and regulatory flexibility analysis, and other impacts. (*See Subtask 1.6 below for other examples of related analyses.*)

B. Provide other rule support such as summarizing and analyzing public comments, organizing public comments into a document database, and organizing documents used in preparing economic analyses for inclusion in a public docket.

C. Develop methodologies, models, and information to better assess social benefits and social costs of regulatory and non-regulatory options. (See Task 1.6 for sample topics.)

TSCA Section 6 actions are often complex multi-year rulemakings. The economic analysis may require many rounds of revisions, often under tight and/or changing deadlines. Typical projects require a well-coordinated team with very strong economic skills, sound expertise in toxicology, engineering, risk assessment, environmental sciences, and programming, and the ability to quickly increase the pace of work in response to Agency needs.

1.4 TSCA Section 8. Reporting and Recordkeeping

Under TSCA Section 8, the Agency may require reporting and recordkeeping by industry for

selected chemicals. For example, through the Inventory Update Rule (IUR), the Agency collects data to update the TSCA Chemical Substances Inventory. Manufacturing, use, and exposure data may be required under amendments to the IUR. The Agency may also promulgate chemical-specific rules requiring similar information through the Preliminary Assessment Information Rule (PAIR) of Section 8(a). The contractor shall provide economic and policy analysis support for Agency decisions under Section 8, including assessments of how companies and markets will be affected by information reporting and recordkeeping rules, costs to the Agency of administering the rules, and other benefits and costs. *See subtask 1.3 above for other examples of possible topics.*

1.5 TSCA Title IV. Lead-Based Paint Rules

Title IV of TSCA was created by the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (Title X of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992). Under this law, the Agency conducts rulemakings to reduce hazards, especially to children, from lead-contaminated soil and dust in and around dwellings, and from lead-based paint on buildings, bridges, and other structures.

The contractor shall provide economic support for Agency actions under this act, including analysis of the social costs and benefits of regulatory options under the Act. As with TSCA Section 6 actions, these are complex multi-year analyses typically requiring multidisciplinary teams and the ability to quickly pick up the pace of work. *See subtask 1.3 above for other examples of possible topics.*

1.6 Other Economic and Policy Analysis Support

The contractor shall provide economic and policy analysis and related support for Agency decision making under other TSCA sections, other laws, and Executive Orders, and for Agency encouragement of voluntary steps to protect the environment. Some assignments may be on a quick turnaround (e.g. 8 to 40 hours) basis. Sample tasks include the following:

A. Support Agency analysis for the Regulatory Flexibility Act (originally passed in 1980 and amended in 1996 by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act, SBREFA); for Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995; and for Executive Orders such as 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review), 12898 (Environmental Justice), and 13211 (Energy);

B. Support Agency preparation of Information Collection Requests (ICRs) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995;

C. Develop survey plans and prepare survey instruments and pre-testing documents. Prepare information necessary for survey approval, conduct surveys, analyze results, and report findings to EPA. *In collecting information or interacting with the public, contractor personnel shall identify themselves as representing their own firm under contract to EPA. In collecting information directly from a business or trade association, the contractor shall notify the business that they may assert a confidentiality claim, as described in the contract section entitled "SCREENING BUSINESS INFORMATION FOR CLAIMS OF CONFIDENTIALITY."*

D. Develop information, methods, models, and other tools to support economic and policy analysis. Sample topics include assessing pollution prevention approaches and prioritizing pollution prevention initiatives in specific industries; economic costs of specific illnesses; quantifying and valuing

human health and ecological benefits; relationship of innovation to compliance costs; and effects of improved chemical product information on consumer and business behavior. Revise or create reports to provide sensitivity analyses, reflect changes in market data, risk data or policy options, summarize comments, or otherwise address Agency concerns.

E. Coordinate peer reviews of economic and technical reports. For example, tasks may include identifying reviewers, coordinating reviews, and summarizing reviewer comments.

Task 2. RSEI Model and Other Technical Support

OPPT's Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI) model provides information on the risk-related impacts on human health and ecological well-being of chemical releases and transfers from industrial facilities, by geographical area. The contractor shall support RSEI model development and use, chemical assessments and other EETD technical work by performing the following tasks.

2.1 Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI)

Develop and update the RSEI model to include indicators of acute human health effects and ecological well-being; add new chemical release and transfer data; address additional concerns such as children's health and environmental justice issues; prepare a web-based application of the model; improve model documentation; support model demonstrations for potential users; and otherwise support model development and use.

2.2 Chemical assessments

For chemicals identified by the Agency, provide evaluations of the following: physical/chemical properties, hazards, and functions; production/processing/use methods; occupational exposure, environmental release, fate, transport, and other human and environmental exposure risks; life-cycle environmental impacts; methods to prevent waste generation and to prevent or control releases or exposure; and comparisons of substitute chemicals or technologies. Develop methods for chemical ranking by hazard and other factors, and for exposure and release assessment.

2.3 Information tools

In support of other tasks and subtasks, design, develop, and update PC-based databases, spreadsheets, and presentation tools; retrieve information from EPA and other on-line databases; design, develop, update, and use computer-based models and databases; and design, develop, and update web sites. Contractor will not be able to access secure databases, except as they directly apply to work required in this Statement of Work.

Task 3. Pollution Prevention, Outreach, and Other Support

The Pollution Prevention Act (PPA) of 1990 made pollution prevention – preventing or reducing waste where it originates -- the national environmental policy. OPPT's Design for Environment is a voluntary partnership program that encourages businesses to incorporate environmental considerations into the design of products, processes, and management systems. The contractor shall support EPA pollution prevention and outreach activities by performing the following tasks.

3.1 Outreach, briefings, workshop and meeting support

A. Support EPA outreach to the public, industry, government bodies, and others related to the Risk Screening Environmental Indicators model, pollution prevention, and other tasks and subtasks. Design and present workshops and briefings, and prepare and disseminate other information.

B. Provide technical support for the development and conduct of meetings, including focus groups and conferences, in support of other tasks and subtasks. Solicit exhibitors/speakers, prepare agendas and background documents, identify interested parties, prepare mailings, summarize and document proceedings, and perform other administrative and analytical tasks necessary for the meetings. *When attending meetings, contractor employees shall wear name tags identifying their names and the companies they represent and orally identify themselves and their companies they represent before meetings begin.*

3.2 Support pollution prevention activities

Support Agency pollution prevention activities, for example by preparing Cleaner Technologies Substitutes Assessments (CTSA) to evaluate environmental risks, performance, and costs of substitute technologies; developing tools that can be used by industry or others to make environmentally-informed choices; and evaluating means of best stimulating the use of environmentally safe technologies.